

and small trees. On the other side of the wood was a field and further on a thinly wooded tract. I did not leave the road and the whole piece examined on December 26th did not include over a few acres.

The birds I saw where as follows:

In the bushes along the stream, Tree Sparrows, 40	40
In the trees along the stream, American Crossbill 30, Northern Shrike 1, Cardinal 2, Chickadee 3	36
In the field, Prairie Horned Lark 3	3
In woods bordering field, Crow 5, Blue Jay 2, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 2, Screech Owl 1	12
On the ground by a fence, Bob-white 5	5
Flying overhead, American Goldfinch 6, Hawk 1	7
Total	103

SIDNEY S. WILSON.

## AFIELD IN A STORM.

Doubtless few ornithologists care to be abroad in a wind storm, for in addition to more or less bodily discomfort, collecting is almost an impossibility; yet some things can be learned at that time not accessible in more favorable weather. Some species of birds disappear entirely as long as it lasts, others do not seem to mind it at all, while a third class battle against it with indifferent success, picking up an irregular existence only through great exertion.

The equinoctial storms swept over the country March 19, 1896, a driving rain from the south, followed by one of the most beautiful rainbows I ever beheld. Daylight breaking on the 20th with the temperature at a standstill one degree above freezing and a northwest wind blowing probably at the rate of forty miles an hour, I concluded to spend a couple of hours in the Great Chester valley.

Few birds were abroad, the cold wind forcing them to seek shelter. The creek having overflowed its bank the day before, leaving a deposit of black mud for many rods on either side, small companies of sombre-plumaged crows were wading about in the slime or buffeting heavily against the wind immediately above it, searching for the detached mussels and other edibles thrown up by the freshet. Of all the birds the White-breasted Nuthatches appeared to mind the searching wind the

least, cheerfully seeking out their daily rations in the bark crevices. The certain knowledge of convenient and comfortable cavities close at hand probably contributed not a little to their ease and contentment of mind. Now and then I startled a solitary Song Sparrow from its retreat under the overhanging bank or the roots of a tree, but the most curious experience of all was the sight of a Broad-winged Hawk at close quarters. With half-spread tail and wings it was clinging to the south side of a pile of cord wood. Discovering my presence in a moment, it flapped to the ground and brushing past me, sprang lightly in the air, turning when but a dozen feet away and repassing me without special hurry or alarm, came to the ground in the meadow a hundred yards beyond; from which I again flushed it to a sheltered hill-side, where I left it, sincerely hoping that "the man with a gun" would not see it while it was in the exhausted condition resultant from the hard battle with the fierce gusts of wind. A pair of Spotted Sandpipers startled from the swamp grass in which they were hiding, ran screaming to a safer refuge, appearing more afraid of me than the hawk, passing the latter at close range. The wind finally drove me home without birds or fish, but not without a certain pleasure of a morning well spent.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

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## GENERAL NOTES.

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SOME WINTER BIRDS OF SAN MIGUEL CO., NEW MEXICO.—The following are some of the winter birds observed during five weeks in Las Vegas, with several trips up the mountains to El Parvenir and Harvey's, at an elevation of nearly 10,000 feet.

HOUSE FINCH.—One of the commonest species, taking the place of the English Sparrow, which is conspicuously absent.

DESERT AND RUDDY HORNED LARKS.—These two species are abundant on the mesas and plains, the latter species predominating. They congregate in large flocks during the winter months.

MEXICAN RAVEN.—Very abundant in the mountains, in immense flocks. Can be found feeding on the sides of mountains among the Pinons and in cornfields.

GOLDEN EAGLE.—Common in the mountains near Anton Chico, thirty miles from here. They breed there quite commonly. I secured a fine photo of a live bird nine months old captured by a farmer from its nest in a cave in the mountains.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AND WESTERN BLUEBIRDS.—Both these species are fairly common about dwellings but rarely seen in the country.

LONG-CRESTED JAY.—Abundant in the mountains among the Pinons.

SLENDER-BILLED NUTHATCH.—Tolerably common in the city, where it feeds on the trees in the plazas and parks, often accompanied by the Creeper.

PINK-SIDED JUNCO.—Abundant in small flocks near the settlements and towns.

COOPER'S HAWK.—Fairly common in the country districts.

SPOTTED OWL.—Rare. Two observed about twenty miles from here, but unfortunately had no gun with me so could not procure them for perfect identification, but am almost certain as to their identity.

WALTON I. MITCHELL, *East Las Vegas, New Mexico.*

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The year 1898 opens with much that is encouraging to the true student of birds. There has been notable progress in genuine ornithological science; and there has been general and evident success in efforts for creating proper sentiment towards birds, among the general public.

Ornithological journals are showing a very welcome increase in articles and notes bearing evidence of careful and intelligent observation of birds.

The life history of the bird, from the time it leaves the egg, and its relations to other birds, is our field. This is the province of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter. Its committees are working earnestly on subjects of ornithological importance.

We have great reason to be proud of Mr. Jones' "Grackle BULLETIN." It represents careful and extended field work and is highly deserving of the praise which it received through leading ornithological journals. This report is a striking example of what one man with intelligence and perseverance may accomplish, even in these times when we think there are comparatively few new things in ornithology for us to discern.

There are many ornithologists who are able to observe a few good things which, published alone, might attract little attention and quite likely would sooner or later pass into scientific oblivion; but these notes combined with the observations of other workers make a sum total of ornithological information that will command respect and interest in every library. This system of co-operation which gives the observer credit for his efforts and produces results of significance is the plan of our chapter.